

Parent Instructions - Flower Arranging

Materials: Apron, flowers, vases, pitcher, low bowl, a piece of newspaper to place cut off stems and leaves, sharp scissors, drying cloth, bucket, funnel, doilies, sponge

Purposes: Visual Motor Coordination

Development of sense of order through a sequence of activities

Development of the aesthetic sense

Care of the environment

Preparation for Botany

Steps:

1. Put aprons.
2. Fill the pitcher with water (about 2/3).
3. Choose some flowers.
4. Pick a small vase; place it in front of the child.
5. Fill with water half way of the vase, checking by lowering your body, (Use funnel if the vase opening is too narrow).
6. Pour half of water into the low bowl.
7. Pick one flower at a time and follow the steps:
 - a. Use the edge of the table in front of the vase and bend to check the level where to cut; put fingers where planning to cut.
 - b. Place it into the low bowl, bend and cut.
 - c. Put extra leaves and stem inside of the taller bowl or the newspaper.
 - d. Choose a doily, look around the environment and place it on a shelf or table.
 - e. Return to bring the vase with flowers.
8. Clean up
 - a. Take any debris, put it into the piece of newspaper; and take it to compost.
 - b. Lay out the towel cloth, open scissors over it; and dry them.
 - c. Get rid of all the left water.
 - d. Empty the bucket.
 - e. Use towel to dry bowl, spill on the surface, and the floor.
 - f. Tell the child to bring more water and get some flowers to arrange.
9. Transfer the work to the child.
10. Fade and observe.

11. Return to the child, check wet towel, hang it up in rack and replace it.
12. Take care of apron.

Other Activities (different days):

1. Show the child how to pick and harvest a flower in the garden.
2. Show the child how to refresh an arrangement (take the nice ones and cut a little bit, remove flowers not good and add new ones).
3. In the garden show the children the difference between monocots (tulip, lillies) and dicots (rose, petunias)
4. Show the child how to do other seasonal arrangements (pine cones).

Note: Cut the stem in an angle under water so that it immediately draws water into the stem (seals the sap at the end of the stem).